

Central Intelligence Agency



Washington, D.C. 20505

16 AUG 1984

DDI- 04644-84/1

AH. ER84-3034

Dr. John V. Byrne, Administrator  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
United States Department of Commerce  
14th & Constitution Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Dr. Byrne:

Thank you for your letter of 30 July informing us of the designation of the United Kingdom, Japan, France, and the Federal Republic of Germany as reciprocating seabed mining states. The information concerning that decision is useful. As in the past, this Agency shall continue to monitor foreign deep seabed mining activities and other international ocean issues, and keep you informed of pertinent information that we discover.

Sincerely,

**/s/ William J. Casey**

William J. Casey  
Director of Central Intelligence

DDI-04644/84

10 AUG  
1984

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

VIA: Deputy Director of Central Intelligence  
Executive Director

FROM: Robert M. Gates  
Deputy Director for Intelligence

SUBJECT: Reply to Letter from Dr. John V. Byrne,  
Administrator of NOAA, Concerning Designation  
of Reciprocating Seabed Mining States

1. Action Requested: Your signature on the attached letter to Dr. John V. Byrne, Administrator of NOAA, acknowledging receipt of his letter of 30 July 1984.

2. Background: The Deep Seabed Hard Minerals Resources Act, signed into law in June 1980, provides a legal framework for US citizens to mine the deep seabed outside the authority of the 1982 Law of the Sea Convention, which declares seabed minerals the common heritage of mankind and claims full control over their exploitation. The United Kingdom, Japan, France, and the Federal Republic of Germany have instituted similar laws.

3. The Administrator of NOAA, in consultation with other Federal agencies, has designated these countries as "reciprocating states" because their seabed mining laws are compatible with that of the US in that they provide for the regulation of seabed miners, the recognition of mining authorizations issued by the United States, and the proscription of interference in other countries' high seas freedoms. The Department of State and NOAA are thus authorized to negotiate agreements with reciprocating states to provide for mutual recognition of mining licenses, resolution of disputes, and cooperation in other aspects of seabed mining.

4. On 3 August 1984, the United States, the four reciprocating states, and Belgium, Italy, and the Netherlands signed such an agreement--the Provisional Understanding Regarding Deep Seabed Matters. The latter three countries are in varying stages of preparing national seabed mining legislation and are expected to be designated reciprocating states when they enact such laws.

[Redacted Signature Box]

Robert M. Gates

Attachment:  
As stated

ALL PORTIONS  
UNCLASSIFIED

DCI  
EXEC  
REG

L-309

Distribution:

Original - Addressee  
1 - DDCI  
1 - ExDir  
1 - Exec Registry  
1 - DDI  
1 - ADDI  
1 - DDI Registry  
1 - D/OGI  
1 - OGI/GD  
2 - GD/ERA

OGI/GD/ERA  (9August1984)

STAT

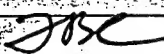
# EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

## ROUTING SLIP

TO:		ACTION	INFO	DATE	INITIAL
1	DCI		X		
2	DDCI		X		
3	EXDIR				
4	D/ICS				
5	DDI	X			
6	DDA				
7	DDO				
8	DDS&T				
9	Chm/NIC				
10	GC				
11	IG				
12	Compt				
13	D/Pers				
14	D/OLL				
15	D/PAO				
16	SA/IA				
17	AO/DCI				
18	C/IPD/OIS				
19					
20					
21					
22					
SUSPENSE		10 August			
		Date			

Remarks

Please prepare acknowledgment  
for ADCI McMahon's signature.

  
 Executive Secretary

3 August 1984

Date

3637 (10-81)



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
Washington, D.C. 20230

THE ADMINISTRATOR

JUL 30 1984

Executive Registry

84-3034

Honorable William J. Casey  
Director, Central Intelligence Agency  
Washington, D. C. 20505

Dear Mr. Casey:

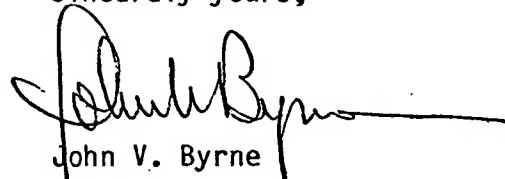
The Deep Seabed Hard Mineral Resources Act (P. L. 96-283, The Act) assigns to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) the responsibility to develop and implement a regulatory program for deep seabed mining, pursuant to which NOAA issues licenses and permits to U.S. citizens to engage in such operations.

Section 118 of the Act authorizes the Administrator of NOAA, in consultation with the Secretary of State and the heads of other appropriate departments and agencies, to designate another nation as a reciprocating state upon specified findings being made by the Secretary of State with respect to such nation's seabed mining program. This amounts to a mechanism for mutual recognition of licenses between the United States and the other nation. The Act also authorizes the negotiation of international agreements to implement this section.

Pursuant to this authority, the Department of State, with the participation of NOAA, has negotiated an agreement with other seabed mining nations which will prevent conflicts among their respective mining areas. The development of this agreement has been discussed periodically with the Interagency Group on Oceans Policy and Law of the Sea, of which your agency is a member. This agreement is now completed.

The purpose of this letter is to continue our consultation with you, and to advise you that, contingent upon the signature of the referenced agreement and my receipt of the prescribed findings from the Secretary of State, I intend to designate as reciprocating states the United Kingdom, Japan, France and the Federal Republic of Germany.

Sincerely yours,

  
John V. Byrne



1-309